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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 17, 1949 SS-83

Huge All-Crop Harvest Practically Assured

Total all-crop output is now estimated 1 percent larger than was indicated month ago. Output nearly as large as last year's record is virtually assured . . . will exceed the '23-32 average by nearly a third. Fairly large production of many crops, rather than record-breaking production of a few, accounts for this year's huge outturn.

Feed Grain Supplies Largest on Record

Feed grains produced will total nearly 128 million tons, second only to the 137 million tons last year. Adding record carryover of corn and relatively large carryovers of oats, barley and sorghum grain, feed supplies on farms--both total and per animal unit--will be the largest ever available.

Plenty of Hay

The 99 million tons of hay, mostly harvested, with 15 million tons brought over from last season, provides plenty of hay for the country as a whole. Pastures, well above average on October 1, generally were furnishing more feed than usual.

Food Grains Top All Years Prior to '46

The 36.5 million tons of food grains (wheat, rice, rye, and buckwheat) now in prospect will exceed previous totals except the past 3 seasons. Production of food and feed grains taken together will total more than 164 million tons, more than in any other year except 1948.

Oilseed Tonnage, Near Record

Oilseeds are turning out a larger total than expected. Cottonseed may top average by more than a third; soybeans, only 4 percent below last year's record crop; peanuts, with acreage limited, will be nearly an average crop. Only flaxseed yields declined. This crop will be relatively large, though down from last year by 22 percent. Aggregate oilseed tonnage will be nearly as large as the all-time record of '48, and 35 percent above average.

Tobacco Estimate Continues About Same As Last Year

The October tobacco estimate changed little from the September estimate. Total production in round numbers is still indicated at 2 billion pounds, approximately same as estimate month ago, also same as last year's production. Burley, however, picked up by about 1 percent past month. Burley is placed at 593 million pounds, down only 2 percent from last year and will fall short of the '46 record crop by only 21 million pounds. Flue-cured estimate at 1 billion pounds is about same as last year's production. Fire-cured estimated at 67.6 million pounds (on reduced acreage) is 8 percent below last year's crop.

Cotton Forecast Up From Month Ago-- Big Texas Crop Offsets Declines in East

Cotton crop is forecast at 15,446 thousand bales, up 503 thousand bales from the September report. Increase mainly in Texas. Lint per acre (U. S.) 286.2 pounds compared with 10-year average of 254 pounds. Yields east of the Mississippi are below average; above average west of the River. Total last year was 14,868 thousand bales; 10-year average, 11,306 thousand.

Corn Estimate Still Near Highest in History

Corn crop will be only about 5 percent below last year's record high. October estimates of 3,477 million bushels is down only slightly from the 3,526 million bushels indicated in September; 10-year average, 2,788 million. Indicated yield, now 40.5 bushels per acre; last year, 42.7; 10-year average, 31.4.

Estimates of Other Crops, With Comparisons

Wheat, 1,126 million bushels. Production last year, 1,288 million; average, 992 million.
Oats, 1,321 million bushels. Last year, 1,492 million; average, 1,234 million.
Barley, 234 million bushels. Last year, 317 million; average, 305 million.
Rye, 19 million bushels. Last year, 26 million; average, 35 million.

Buckwheat, 5.1 million bushels. Last year, 6.3 million; average, 7.1 million.
Flaxseed, 41 million bushels. Last year, 52.5 million; average, 30.1 million.
Rice, 89.6 million bushels. Last year, 81.2 million; average, 62.9 million.
Sorghum grain, 129.9 million bushels. Last year, 131.6 million; average, 102.4 million.
Hay (all), 99.1 million tons. Last year, 99.8 million; average, 99.5 million.
Beans, (dry edible, 100 lbs.), 20.3 million bags. Last year, 20.8 million; average, 16.9 million.
Peas, (dry field, 100 lbs.), 3.4 million bags. Last year, 3.6 million; average, 5.6 million.
Soybeans, 211.2 million bushels. Last year, 220.2 million; average, 148.4 million.
Peanuts, 1.8 billion pounds. Last year, 2.3 billion; average, 1.8 billion.
Potatoes, 378.8 million bushels. Last year, 445.8 million; average, 393.4 million.
Sweetpotatoes, 51.8 million bushels. Last year, 49.8 million; average, 63.6 million.
Sugarcane, (sugar and seed), 7.9 million tons. Last year, 6.8 million; average, 6 million.
Sugar beets, 9.9 million tons. Last year, 9.4 million; average, 10.1 million.
Broomcorn, 43 thousand tons. Last year, 30 thousand; average, 42 thousand.
Hops, 49.5 million pounds. Last year, 49.8 million; average, 44.1 million.
Pasture condition, 81. Last year, same time, 72; average, 75.

Grain Stocks on Farms October 1

Corn, (old crop), 699.2 million bushels, way above the 114 million bushels of old corn on farms a year ago and nearly double the '38-47 average of 360 million bushels.
Wheat, 459.6 million bushels; down 87 million from year ago and down from the '38-47 average of 493 million bushels.
Oats, 1 billion bushels, down from the 1.2 billion year ago and about same as average.
Barley, 146.3 million bushels, down from the 209 million year ago and down from the 218 million average.
Rye, 8.8 million bushels, down from the 14.2 million year ago and considerably below the 23.5 million average.
Soybeans for beans, (old crop), 2.1 million bushels, up from the 1.8 million year ago but down from the 3.3 million average. (Stocks in all positions will be released by BAE Oct. 24.)

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	August 15 1949	Sept. 15 1949	Sept. 15 1949
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.79	1.87	2.14
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.18	1.16	1.55
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 10.2	10.2	11.6
Cotton, lb.	ct. 29.32	29.70	30.01
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.54	1.38	1.77
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 19.40	19.90	17.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 19.40	20.00	13.10
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol. 22.10	22.40	16.30
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 21.20	21.60	14.20
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 1/ 63.6	1/ 62.1	63.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 1/ 3.94	1/ 3.87	3.87
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 25.1	24.4	27.6
Eggs, doz.	ct. 1/ 48.3	1/ 49.1	52.0

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Record or Near Record Cattle Feeding Indicated

Movement of feeder cattle to the Corn Belt since July 1 has been largest on record. This and other developments indicate volume of cattle feeding will be as large as the record high number fed last year, maybe larger.

Deciduous Fruits Tonnage Near Record

Total deciduous fruits, estimated at 10 million tons, has been exceeded only in '46. Production is up 17 percent from last year and 11 percent above average.

Big Apple Crop

Apple crop is estimated a fifth larger than 10-year average and a half larger than last year's production. Estimate increased 3 million bushels last month. Commercial crop will exceed 132 million bushels. Last year's production, 88 million; 10-year average, 111 million.

Better than Average Peach Crop

The peach harvest this year totals about 75 million bushels, 15 percent above last year and 9 percent above average.

More Pears, Fewer Grapes Than Last Year

A record 36 million bushel pear crop has been harvested. Crop is up from average by 17 percent. Crop last year, 26 million bushels. Pacific Coast Bartlett's this year totaled nearly 22 million bushels, up 45 percent from last year and 27 from average. Grape prospects declined in September about 4 percent or 108 thousand tons. Crop is now estimated at 2.9 million tons. '48 crop was 3 million tons.

Plums and Prunes Plentiful

California plum crop will be up about a third from last year and a fifth above average. Estimate is 90 thousand tons. Michigan crop of 6.2 thousand tons is about three-fourths above last year and nearly one-half above average. Dried prunes produced in California are estimated at 166 thousand tons, down 9 percent from last year and 17 from average. Prunes for all purposes (fresh basis) produced in Oregon, Washington and Idaho are indicated at 157 thousand tons, up two-thirds from last year's small crop and 21 percent from average.

Short Crop of Grapefruit, Oranges More Plentiful

New crop of grapefruit is only about three-fourths as large as last season and two-thirds of average. Orange crop, about same as last year and a tenth above average. Grapefruit production (exclusive of the California summer crop) is forecast at 32.2 million boxes. Early and mid-season oranges are forecast at 50.6 million boxes. Florida crop, these varieties, is a record --33 million boxes, but Texas and California have short crops.

Nut Production Large

Tree nuts this year will total a little more than in '48 and will exceed average by two-fifths. Record tonnages of walnuts, almonds and filberts, and a relatively large pecan crop.

Fewer Vegetables Than Last Fall

Fall vegetable supplies are above average but will be about 11 percent smaller than last fall. More celery, cauliflower, eggplant and green peppers are expected than a year ago, and production of all the fall crops except cabbage, carrots and green peas will be above average.

Cranberries, Better Than Average Crop

Cranberry production will be smaller than the record of last season but will top average by 21 percent. Estimate for this year is 805 thousand barrels; nearly 968 thousand last year.

Milk Production Continues High

Milk production in September topped both September of last year and average by 3 percent. And milk per cow on October 1 was highest of record for the date. September production, 9.4 billion pounds compared with 9.1 billion year earlier and 9.1 billion average. Production first 9 months this year 92.4 billion pounds compared with 90.5 billion year earlier; average, 90.4.

Record Egg Production Last Month

Number of eggs laid in September was a record for the month--3.6 billion. This compares with 3.5 billion year ago and 3 billion average for the month. Total laid first 9 months was 44.1 billion eggs; year ago, 44.2 billion; average, 40.3 billion. Number potential layers are up from a year ago, and nearly up to average. Egg-feed ratio, most favorable since '42. Chicken-feed and turkey feed ratios, not as favorable as a year ago.

Further Improvement in Business Activity

Further improvement in business was noted in September. Down trend already had been reversed in August. Both production and employment had risen substantially in non-agricultural activities during August. In late August, the decline in wholesale prices also was reversed. Industrial production in August was up from previous month for the first time since the postwar peak reached last October. Output increased in all major groups of industries. (Outlook issue of "Demand and Price Situation" will be released later this month.)

Construction Up a Little

Value of new construction started in August totaled 1.9 billion dollars, somewhat lower than a year ago but up a little from July. Total construction expenditures first eight months of this year were up from same period in '48 by 2 percent.

Personal Incomes Moderately Down

Personal incomes in July were down a little, mainly because farm incomes increased less than usual for this season of the year. Due to increased employment, personal incomes for August are expected to show an increase. Annual rate in July, \$209.7 billion compared with \$212.4 billion in June and \$214.5 billion in July '48.

Department Store Sales Pick Up a Bit

Department store sales in August were up from previous month for the first time in 4 months. Sales were up 1 percent above July, down 8 percent from year earlier. For first 8 months dollar sales were off 5 percent from last year.

Midyear Land Values Down From Year Ago

Dollar values of U.S. farm land at midyear were down 1 percent from a year earlier, and down 3 percent from the high of November '48. This is first time since '39 farm land values have dropped below the previous year. Sale of Farms slowing. Only 41 farms per thousand changed hands past year, ending March, 29 percent less than during year of peak sales ending March '47.

Net Migration in '48 Away From Farms--Births Over Deaths Hold Farm Population Up

Net migration last year was away from farms. More moved off than moved on to farms . . . on, 1.2 million; off, 1.3 million. Except for excess of births over deaths there would have been a decrease in the number of persons living on farms. High birth rate and low death rate offset the loss from migration and caused a small increase. Total living on U. S. farms first of year was 27.8 million, compared with 27.4 million early in '48. Farm population last year was 11 percent smaller than '30-39 prewar average.

Employment Holds Fairly Steady

Farm employment late in September was up 11 percent from a month earlier. Civilian employment holds steady. With summer workers back in school, the 59.4 million total at work in September was down from August by only .5 million while the working force was down .8 million. Unemployed totaled 3.4 million in September; August, 3.7 million; July, 4.1 million.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Sept. 1949
Prices received by farmers	1910-14= 100	249
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14= 100	242
Parity ratio	1910-14= 100	103
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14= 100	258
Retail prices of food	1910-14= 100	1/ 261
Farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	2/ 403
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14= 100	1/ 480
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Sept. 1948	Jan.-Sept. 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	90.5	92.4
Eggs, (Bil.)	44.2	44.1
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 4143	3/ 4666
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) ..	3/ 416	3/ 337
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	3/ 5737	3/ 6171
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 10779	3/ 11634

1/ August figure.

2/ October 1 figure. Adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ January-August.